

MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular Board Meeting

Official Minutes

March 25, 2026

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

Mr. Chris Clark at 9:10 a.m., called the meeting of the Mid-State Special Education Executive Committee to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT

South Fork: Mr. Chris Clark; Mulberry Grove: Ms. Casie Bowman; Brownstown: Mr. David Lund; Hillsboro: Ms. Hope McBrain; Morrisonville: Mr. Patrick Murphy; Bond: Dr. Wes Olson; St. Elmo: Mr. Travis Portz; Ramsey: Ms. Melissa Ritter; Carlinville: Dr. Becky Schuchman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Edinburg: Ms. Ashley Francis; Vandalia: Dr. Jennifer Garrison; Panhandle: Mr. Aaron Hopper; Litchfield: Dr. Kelly McClain;

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Bobbi Fisher, Director; Ms. Liz Reynolds, Business Manager; Ms. Ingrid Watkins, Executive Secretary; Ms. Megan Hanlon, Morrisonville.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following were presented as part of the Consent Agenda for approval:

- Approval of Minutes from the February 18, 2026 Meeting.
- Approval of Destruction of Executive Session Audio Recordings older than 18 months- 8/21/2024 Executive Board closed session.
- The FY26 Balance Sheet and Receipts vs. Expenditures reflects the February fund balance of \$2,559,593.58 which includes receipts of \$268,434.80 and expenditures of \$557,161.82. FY26 revenue is being received as expected other than the FFS we have been waiting for and the PECT grant is coming in slower than anticipated. For March, our projected revenue amount is \$230,747.43, which does not include the Final Cost Billing assessment. Our projected expenses are in the amount of \$536,829.03. Our resulting March 31st fund balance is projected at \$2,253,511.98.
- Accounts Payable Review, Approval, and Order for Immediate Payment of March 25th bills in the amount of \$169,948.61. Expenses include routine bills, EBF flow-through to districts, professional development, materials/assessments/mileage, legal, and contractual therapies.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion made by Dr. Olson and seconded by Dr. Schuchman to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Clark, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Mr. Murphy, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Dr. Schuchman, yes; Motion carried 9 yea, 0 nay.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Ms. Fisher provided the directors report. She attended the IAASE Winter Conference with Amy Knodle. On March 6th Mid-State hosted a professional development event with Jessica Minahan on increasing student engagement and reducing oppositional behavior. Twelve of the thirteen districts have certified the December 1st IDEA Child Count, the final due date is Friday, March 27th. There is an upcoming free professional development for district principals. The training is titled, "You're at the table, now what? Understanding the role of the LEA Representative in IEP meetings." Ms. Fisher provided a reminder to superintendents to complete the Statement of Economic Interest, if they have not done so already. The IDEA Part B grant applications for FY27 are now available in IWAS but the funded amounts are not available yet. Ms. Fisher will start prepping grants in May.

The following are Special Education Bills to watch for:

- SB 2773-Passed unanimously out of Senate education committee- this proposes to extend the short-term PARA license which is set to end this June without this bill passing. There is specific criteria written in the bill as to who is/isn't eligible to extend their license.
- HB 4582- Twice Exceptional students- advanced academic programs shall be addressed in the student's IEP or 504 plan (reflected in goals, accommodations, etc.) as well as the deficit areas already addressed in the IEP or 504 plan.
- HB 4580- proposes that ISBE must release IEP form changes by July 1 (the beginning of the 25-26 school year started rough as IEP form updates came throughout the entire year and the training piece was hard to stay on top of).
- HB 5488- creates robust 504 hearing requirements that each district would be required to follow in the event of a 504 hearing request.
- HB 4068- Amendment- creates timelines that districts must follow when receiving a 504 request.
- HB 4397- lists activities that school psychologists can perform. It also codifies that a specialist degree is required for school psychology. There are not currently any master's level school psychology programs in Illinois. "Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Provides that "school psychologist" means a psychologist who, along with other qualifications, has graduated with a specialist degree, an equivalent degree with the completion of a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours, or a higher degree in school psychology (rather than a master's degree or higher degree in psychology or educational psychology) from an institution of higher learning and has at least 1,200 clock hours of supervised experience (rather than one school year of full-time supervised experience) in the delivery of school psychological services

Ms. Fisher provided the following committee reports. The Finance Committee met prior to this board meeting. They reviewed the following Final Cost Billing information. The revenue decreased by \$22,108 and expenditures decreased by \$79,612. The IMRF increase was a notable expenditure increase as well as an increase in the DHH contractor to cover an April/May maternity leave. The IMRF increase was a notable expenditure increase. Salary and insurance costs also went down related staff that left mid-year (almost \$9,000 in that category). In addition, VI contractor amount was reduced by \$15,000 due to services being delivered were less than anticipated. The overall expenditures decrease is due to the Speech Language Pathologist contractor expenses being less than anticipated. We also had three other part-time employees that worked less than anticipated. The FFS reimbursement was lowered by \$30,000 because the reimbursement has not been received. The anticipating reimbursement over \$45,000 will be added to next year's FFS reimbursement, as it will arrive after Final Cost Billing. Our excess beyond cash on hand is \$130,965 for FY26. There will be a motion today to for the invoicing of the FY26 Final Cost Billing. The committee considered 3%, 4%, and 5% salary increase for FY27. The committee is recommending the board approve 4% for FY27. There was also a discussion on retiree and substitute rates. The committee is recommending an increase to \$400 from \$380. The practice will stay the same for short-term and permanent part-time substitutes, which is paid at a daily rate. For non-retired substitutes, it will be based on years of service and retirees will be paid based on the retiree rate. There was also a discussion on an independent contract with a Deaf Hard of Hearing teacher to cover a maternity leave, starting April 7th through May 15th. The Fy27 Billing Structure was discussed. The document reflects a proposal that will allow a district to hire their own support staff with board approval, if notice is given between December 2nd and February 1st of the school year prior.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Fisher noted the following new business:

- Approval invoicing the FY26 Final Cost Billing.
- FY27 Billing Structure approval
- 26-27 Thrive Proposed Calendar
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing contract for approval to cover a maternity leave
- Infinitec FY27 Contract

- An official motion to approve: for a non-Thrive district to send a student to Thrive there will be a one-time \$3,000 per district charge in addition to tuition for non-Thrive Mid-State districts and a \$3,000 per student charge in addition to tuition for non-Mid-State districts.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion made by Dr. Schuchman and seconded by Mr. Lund approval to invoice FY26 Final Cost Billing, the Death and Hard Hearing Independent Contractor contract, approval of the FY27 Billing Structure, the 26-27 Thrive Proposed School Calendar, the Infinetec Contract for FY27, and approval to charge non-Thrive MSSE districts a one-time \$3,000 charge to buy into the program on top of tuition and to charge non-MSSE districts \$3,000 per student on top of tuition costs, all as presented. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Clark, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Mr. Murphy, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Dr. Schuchman, yes; Motion carried 9 yea, 0 nay.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ACTION ITEMS

A motion made by Mr. Lund and seconded by Dr. Schuchman to approve the salary increase of 4%, initiate FY27 Budget, approve the FY27 retiree rate of \$400 per day, keeping the short-term and permanent part-time sub rates, approve the maternity leave for Michaela Hartley, approve Ramsey to hire their own School Social Worker for FY27, approve the resignation of Lynette Milner at the end of the 25-26 school year and Natasha Jackson, effective April 2, 2026, and the employment of Amber Haugland, all as presented. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Clark, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Mr. Murphy, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Dr. Schuchman, yes; Motion carried 9 yea, 0 nay.

DISCUSSION

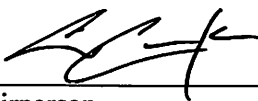
Governing Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 1st at 6:30 p.m. has been cancelled. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14 at 9:00 a.m. in the Thrive conference room, with the Personnel & Finance Committee meeting to occur at 8:15 and Buildings/Facilities Committee meetings to occur following at 9:20.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Dr. Olson and seconded by Dr. Schuchman to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote: Motion carried 9 yea, 0 nay.

Respectfully submitted,

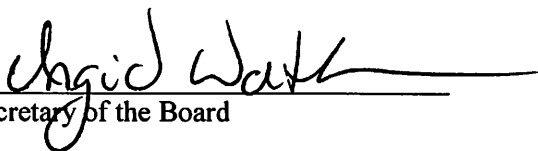
Mrs. Bobbi Fisher, Director



Chairperson

4-14-26

Date



Secretary of the Board

4-14-26

Date